REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-22, 25-30, 32-51, and 55-60 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application, and were rejected. Claims 2, 23-24, 31, and 52-54 were cancelled previously.

With this Amendment claims 1, 3-22, 25-30, 32-51, and 55-60 are amended.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3-15, 17-22, 30, 55-57 remain at issue.

I.   35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 3-15, 18-19, 22, 25-30, 32, 33-44, 47-48, 51, and 55-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nafeh* (U.S. Patent No. 5,343,251) in view of *Nageo et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,927) in further view of *Ellis et al.* (US Patent No. 5,504,518). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In relevant part, claim 1 recites:

"a characteristic-extracting unit which extracts characteristic patterns from the input signal part which indicate the probability that the input signal part is the candidate part ;"

This is clearly unlike *Nageo* which fails to disclose a characteristic-extracting unit which extracts characteristic patterns from a input signal part which indicate the probability that the input signal part is a candidate part. Instead, *Negeo* discloses extracting the positions of pixels in a series of frames to determine if a image is moving. (See Nageo Col 4, lines 1-55). Further, nowhere does *Nafeh* disclose using extracted characteristic patterns to indicate the probability that a first signal part is a candidate part.

As the present application teaches, by extracting characteristic patterns of the input signal part indicating the probability that the input signal part is a candidate part, a high accuracy of

detection of commercial messages is obtained. (See, US Pub. 2002/0021759 Para. [0021]-[0081]). As a result, the device disclosed in *Nafeh* is incapable of producing the signal processing apparatus claimed by Applicants.

Nafah and *Ellis* similarly fail to teach or disclose using channel data as characteristic data in identifying a candidate part.

Therefore, because *Nafah, Nageo* or *Ellis* or any combination of the three fails to disclose, or even fairly suggest, every feature of claims 1 and 30, the rejection is improper. Because claims 4-15, 17-22, 25-29, 32-44, 46-51, and 55-60 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 30, those claims are patentable at least for the same reasons.

Claims 16, 20, 21, 45, 29, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nafeh* (U.S. Patent No. 5,343,251) in view of *Nageo et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,927) in view of *Ellis*. (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,927) in further view of *Shah-Nazaroff et al.* (US Patent No. 6,671,880). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As stated above, *Nafeh, Nageo* and *Ellis* fail to teach or disclose using a character extracting unit to extract characteristic patterns from a input signal part which indicates the probability that the first signal part is the candidate part.

Similarly, *Shah-Nazaroff* fails to teach or disclose anything concerning the use of a characteristic extracting unit to extract characteristic patterns of an input signal part.

Therefore, because *Nafah, Nageo, Shah-Nazaroff* or *Ellis* or any combination of the four fails to disclose, or even fairly suggest, every feature of claims 1 and 30, the rejection is improper. Because claims 16, 20, 21, 29, 45 and 50 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 30, those claims are patentable at least for the same reasons.
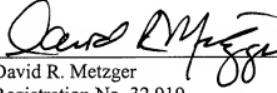
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are

clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification

to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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